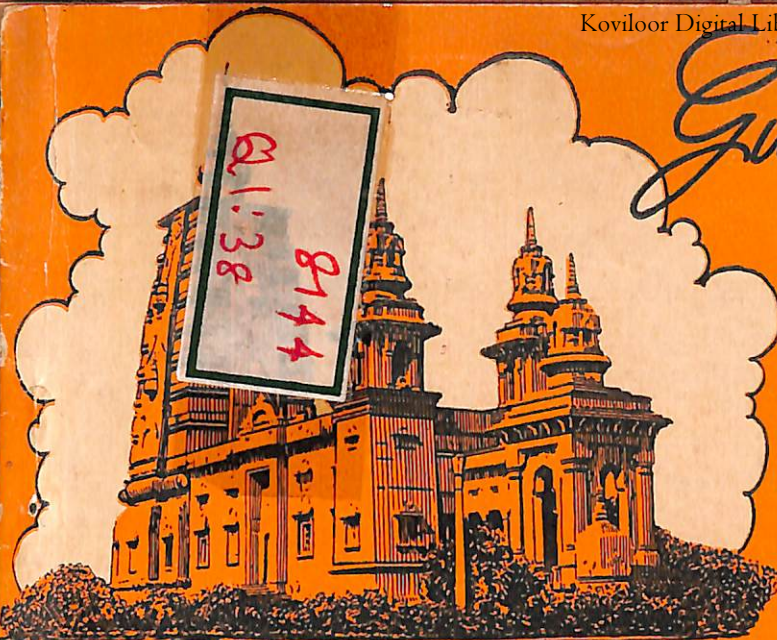


Guide Album OF

SARNATH VARANASI



100

VIEWS, BOOK CONTAINS



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के शो-रूम में अवश्य पधारें।

पत्थर के आकर्षक चिलम तथा लकड़ी के लैम्प

इत्यादि के एकमात्र निर्माता, निर्यातकर्ता

एवं आयातकर्ता।

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वाराणसी-२२१००१

(यू०पी०) इण्डिया



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33-1



காஷி மிகவும் முக்கியமான இடம்.
அங்கு மிகவும் அழகான புகைப்படங்கள் உள்ளன.

லால் பகதூர் சாஸ்திரி

The importance of Kashi is great.

It has a beautiful collection of pictures.

Lal Bahadur Shastri
(Late Prime-minister)

INTRODUCTION

Varanasi, the spiritual capital of Hindus, religiously called Kashi means illuminatory to the soul, Shankaracharya, Buddha, Tulsi Das, Kabir and others came and lived here for the accomplishment of their learning.

The entire city, spreading four miles with palaces on the curve of the sacred Ganges presents unique mornings reminding of its long past of more than four thousand years.



Varanasi : A Panoramic View of the river Ganges गङ्गा के किनारे वाराणसी का एक दृश्य

Varanasi gathers millions of pilgrims on innumerable festivals round the year. In seven days of a week Varanasi has nine festivals. Pilgrims walk on foot from a distance of 30-40 miles but mostly come by train for which Varanasi Cantt is the prominent Railway station. When the train passes the Malviya Bridge on the holy Ganges the whole city presents a reverential view.



Malviya Bridge मालवीय पुल



Old Varanasi Cantt Station वाराणसी कैंट

Varanasi is famous for brass, copper and brocade industries in the world. Banarasi sarees designed with untarnishing gold thread is the speciality of Banaras. Vishwanath Lane glitters with the products of local industries.



A Brass & Copper Engraver एक नक्काश

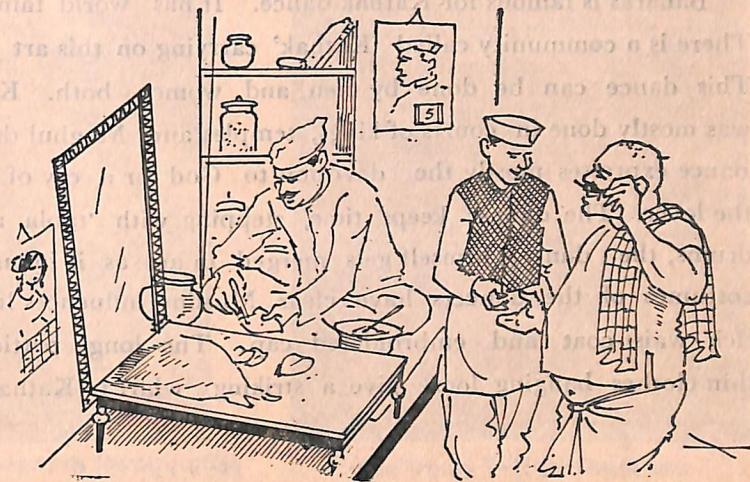


A Weaver of Varanasi एक बुनकर

BETEL LEAF

There is no locality in Banaras where there is no betel leaf shop. They can be recognised easily with mirrors facing the customers who see their faces while chewing the betel.

Betel is a heart shape green leaf on which they put betel nut, lime, catechu and a little tobacco, if some one is habituated to take. Lips turn red and it is a part of ornamentation too. It is just a formality and a habit like smoking. Betel is called 'PAN' for which Banaras is famous. Some people get addicted to it but if taken twice or thrice after meals it is never intoxicant but stimulant.



KATHAK DANCE OF BANARAS

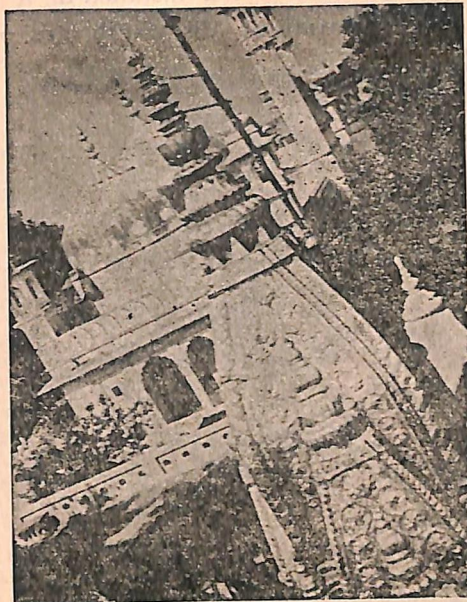
Banaras is famous for Kathak dance. It has world famous dancers. There is a community called 'Kathak' carrying on this art traditionally. This dance can be done by men and women both. Kathak dance was mostly done in courts of kings, temples and Moghul darbars. This dance expresses mostly the devotion to God or a cry of a beloved for the lover. The dancer keeps time, stepping with 'tabla and banwan' drums, the dancer himself gets merged in art as if hypnotised. The costumes of the dancers have clear Muslim influences like trousers, rich waist-coat and embroidered cap. The long petticoat made of thin clothes hanging loose give a striking whirl to Kathak dances.



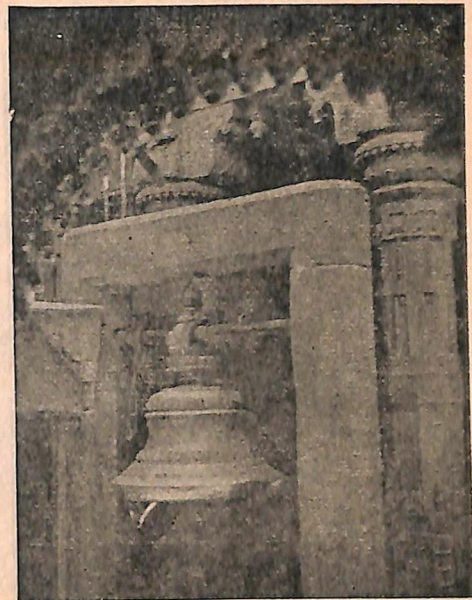
GOLDEN TEMPLE OF VISHWANATH

A narrow street from Dashaswamedh Ghat leads to the Golden Temple near by. This

temple was constructed by Mahrani Ahalya Bai of Indore in 1785 and Maharana Ranjit Singh of Punjab covered it with 22 maunds of Gold. People bow their heads when they hear the sacred sound of the huge bell of this temple. Shiva lingam in the main shrine is the same ancient

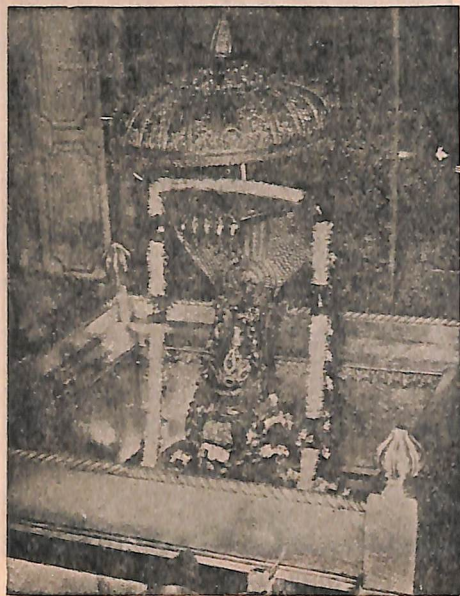


Golden Temple Vishwanath विश्वनाथ मन्दिर



The bulky bell विशालकाय घण्टा

statue that has seen many destructions of its temples by the hands of Muslims. Many thousand devotees pour Ganges water daily on the symbol of Shiva installed in a silver cistern which gets filled up many times in a day. The five Aaratis of Vishwanath are very famous, when



Decorated Vishwanath शृङ्गार आरती

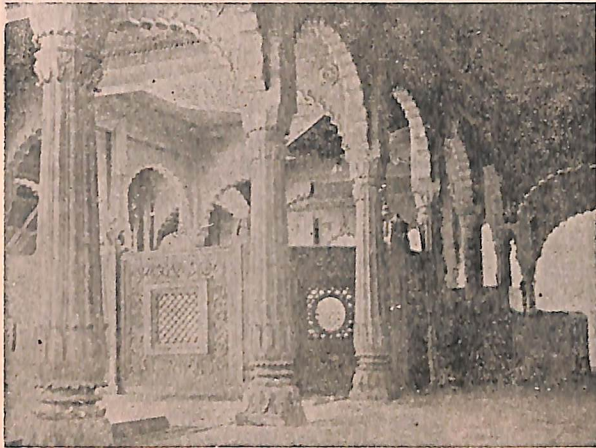


Sri Vishwanath Image विश्वनाथदर्शन

Shiva is decorated with leaves shaded with huge cobra and Ganges water falls continually on him. The voluminous prayer sounds of the masses with the accompaniment of drum and hundreds of bells-ringing along with the huge bell drive the devotees into a trance for a while.

WELL OF KNOWLEDGE

Just north to the temple of Vishwanath, under a ceiling based on 48 Columns, exists the well of Knowledge—Gyanvapi. The Shivalingam of the present temple of Vishwanath was found preserved in this well. Devotees drink the water of this well with a faith to have a spiritual knowledge.



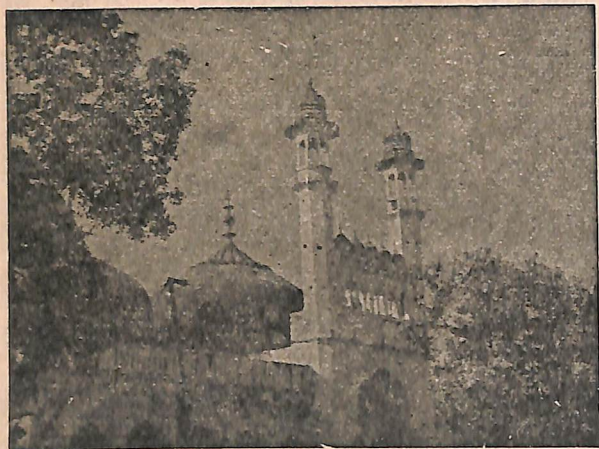
Well of Knowledge ज्ञानवापी



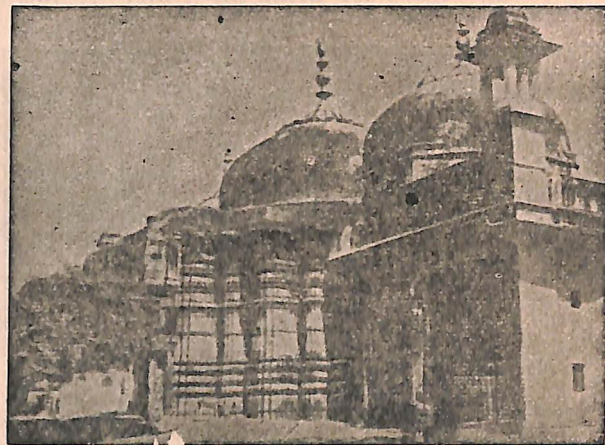
Nandi near well of Knowledge विशालकाय नन्दी

The sacred bull Nandi faces the old temple of Vishwanath that was destroyed by Aurangzeb.

The ruins of the old temple can still be seen behind the mosque constructed by Aurangzeb with the same material.

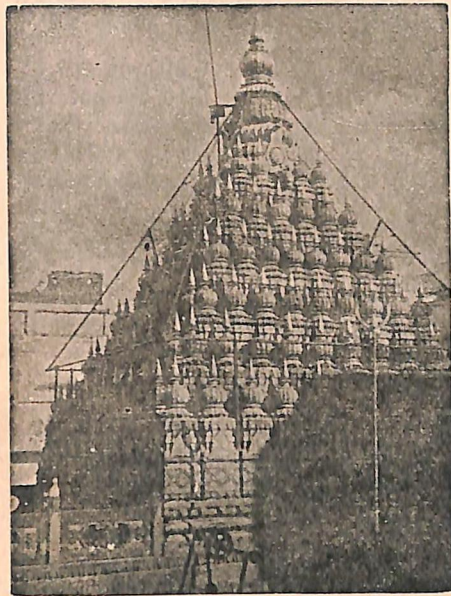


Aurangzeb Mosque (Front) औरङ्गजेब मस्जिद



Old Vishwanath Temple (Back)

KAL BHAIRAVA



Kal Bhairava Temple काल भैरव मन्दिर

Kal Bhairava is an attendant of Shiva. Bhairava Nath temple in Banaras is the only temple which has miraculously escaped the demolition from the hands of Aurangzeb. Bhairava is the religious magistrate of the city. There are many aspects of him situated in different corners of Banaras to take care of the city of Shiva.



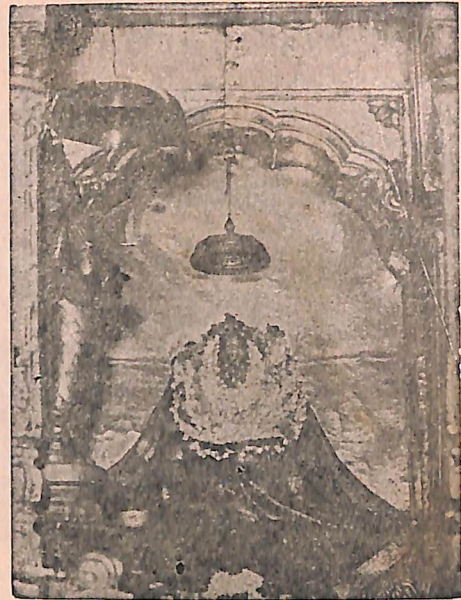
Kal Bhairava Image कालभैरव प्रतिमा

THE TEMPLE OF ANNAPURNA



Golden Annapurna श्री अन्नपूर्णा

Close by to the temple of Vishwanath there stands an 18th century temple of Annapurna, the Goddess of Plenty. On Deepawali, the Illumination festival, the golden statue of Annapurna giving alms to Shiva for the welfare of the world is opened to the general devotees for three days only. It is said that no body can remain hungry in Kashi, as Annapurna always takes care.



Sri Annapurna Image श्री अन्नपूर्णा

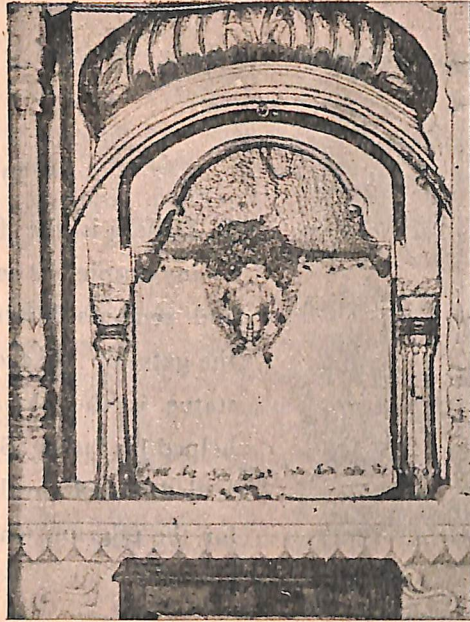


DHUNDHIRAJ GANESH

Ganesh is the first and foremost deity to be worshipped in any auspicious ceremony of Hindus. He is God of Wisdom and removes hindrances. His statue is always found on the gate top of every Hindu house. Dhundhiraj Ganesha's statue is the oldest one in Banaras. It is said when he helped his father Shiva in coming back from Himalaya, he settled himself on the spot in Vishwanath lane. He is a must for the pilgrims who come to Varanasi.



Mahalaxami Image प्रतिमा महालक्ष्मी



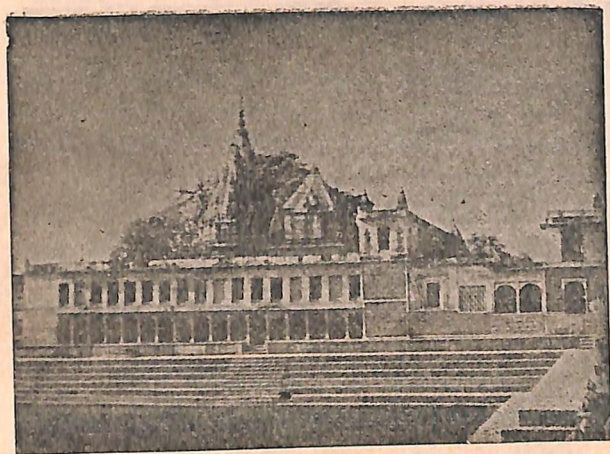
Vishalakshi Image विशालाक्षी प्रतिमा

VISHALAKSHI

To come to Varanasi is to have all the pilgrimages at a place. There are 1500 temples of different gods and goddesses. Vishalakshi Devi is Laxmi, a consort of Lord Vishnu, for prosperity. She is a very popular deity situated in a narrow lane near ghat locality. The standing statue of the goddess is very beautiful with a halo behind.

DURGA TEMPLE

On the southern end of the city, an 18 th century richly carved temple of Mahadurga exists, which becomes crowded on every Tuesday and more in Navaratra. An Englishman has presented a bell to this temple in fulfilment of his promise after winning a battle. Due to the presence of many hundred monkeys the foreigners have misnamed it as Monkey Temple.



Durga Temple दुर्गा मन्दिर



Stone Carving in Durga Temple मन्दिर में कलापूर्ण खुदाई

KAVERI DEVI

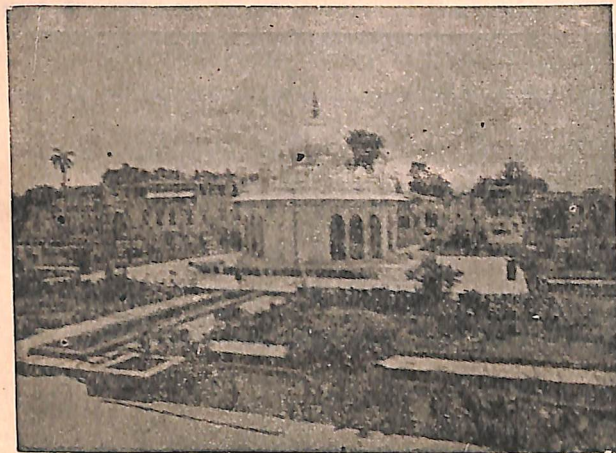
Kaveri Devi known as Go Devi is the sister of Vishwanath, Shiva. She was of a reserved nature, but those worshipping Shiva observed great formalities to her as well. Shiva finding her disturbed made her unapproached by placing her on the southern corner of Banaras near Durga Temple in the untouchable colony, which she took to heart. Then Lord Shiva blessed her that pilgrimage of Kashi will never be completed without visiting her. The Kaveri shell which was the smallest exchange is offered to her.



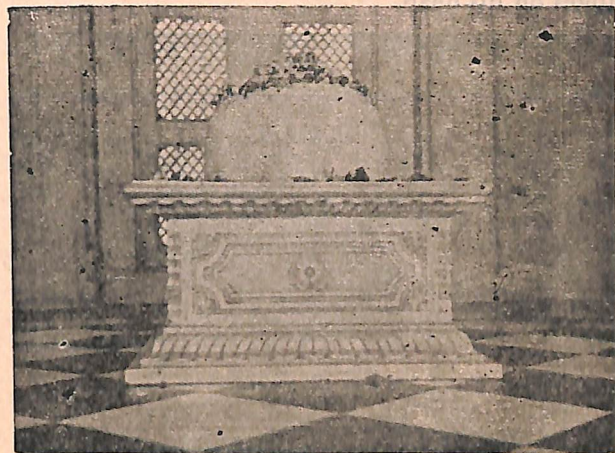
Temple and Image of Sri Kaveri Devi कौडिया देवी (मन्दिर एवं मूर्ति)

SRI SWAMI BHASKARANAND MEMORIAL

Just east to the pond of Durga temple a beautiful marble memorial in a garden attracts the visitors, it is a Samadhi of Swami Bhaskaranand. The yogi had supernatural powers, his statue as well as his shiva-shaped samadhi is open to all.



Sri Swami Bhaskaranand Memorial



Samadhi (Inside) अन्दर का प्रधान कक्ष

TULSI MANAS MANDIR

Next to Durga Temple, Tulsi Manas Mandir constructed in 1964 with more than sixty millions of rupees exists as a wonderful creation. The ornate interior presents an excellent glimpse of Lord Rama, Sita, Vishnu, Laxmi, Annapurna and the great poet Tulsi Das whose Ramayan is completely inscribed on the walls of the temple. In the left garden of the temple Lord Shiva is receiving the Ganges on his head.



Tulsi Manas Mandir तुलसी मानस मन्दिर



Kailash (Manas Mandir) कैलाश मानस मन्दिर

MOTHER INDIA TEMPLE

This temple was inaugurated by Mahatma Gandhi in 1936. Sri Shiva Pd. Gupta constructed it as the symbol of India's struggle of Independence with British. It has no statue but the map of our mother country sculptured in marble. It shows nicely in relief the Himalaya, Tibet mountain peaks and the entire physical features of the country.



Mother India Temple भारत माता मन्दिर



Sri Kashi Vidyapeeth Library

GHATS

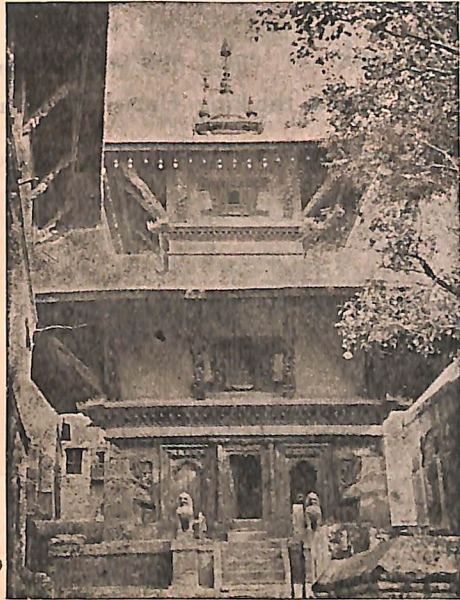
One gets amazed seeing the series of stone steps called ghats from one end to the other end of the city spreading four miles on the bank of the holy Ganges. Time to time different Maharajas of India have constructed palaces, temples and steps philanthropically. On Lalita Ghat Maharaja Nepal has constructed a Shiva temple quite in Nepalese architecture with wooden carvings.



Lal Ghat लाल घाट



Lalita Ghat ललिता घाट



Nepali
Temple
←नेपाली मन्दिर

Kamdeva : The
God of Love
कामदेव की
कलापूर्ण मूर्ति→

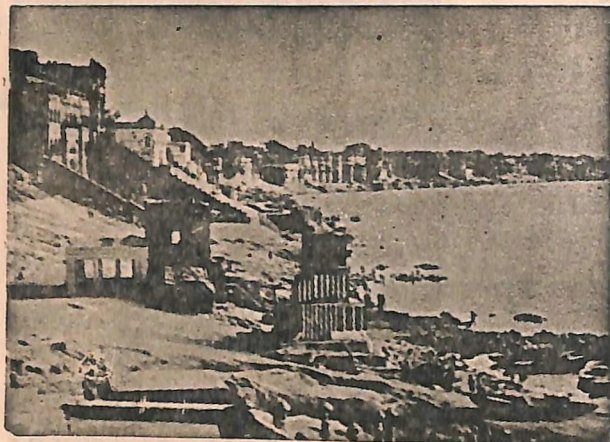


NEPALI TEMPLE

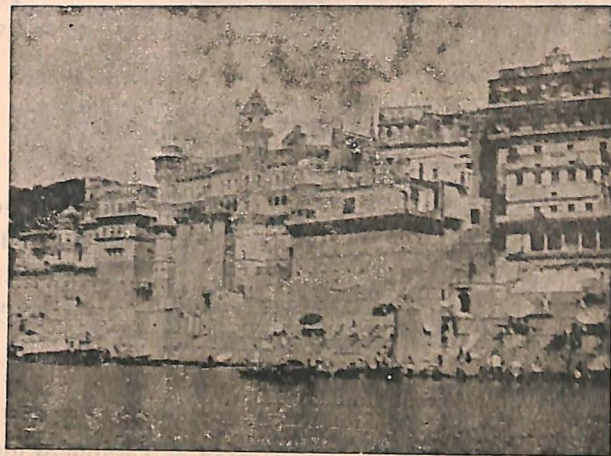
Nepali Temple is misnamed as Temple of love due to erotic carvings in it. The Main shrine of this temple has no concern with carvings, it is dedicated to the symbol, Shiva Lingam. Nepalese describe that lightning in clouds is a modest virgin; when she sees erotics on temples she does not attack the building.

HARISHCHANDRA GHAT

Among 64 ghats of Banaras some are so old that their origin sinks in epics and mythology. Harishchandra Ghat is that very ancient cremation-ground on the bank where the king Harishchandra served an untouchable to fulfil his promises to Vishwamitra.



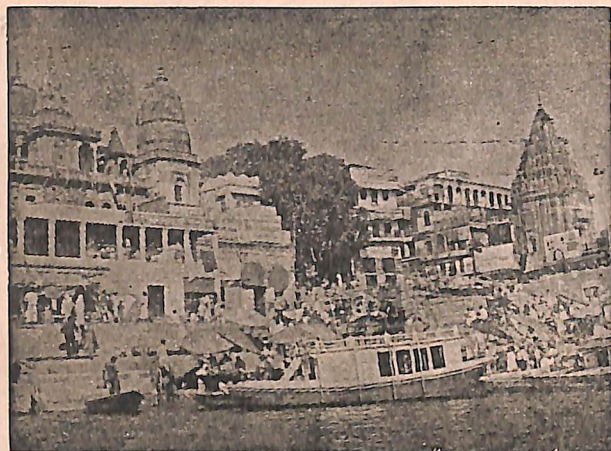
Harishchandra Ghat हरिश्चन्द्र घाट



Ahilya Bai Ghat अहिल्या बाई घाट

Maharani Ahilya Bai of Indore has constructed a spacious and strong ghat for the people near the heart of the city.

Dashaswamedh Ghat is one of the five sacred points on the Ganges in Banaras. Asi, Dashaswamedh, Manikarnika, Panchganga and Varuna Sangam are the Panchtirthas. The legendary king Divodas of Banaras performed ten Aswamedh yajnas at Dashaswamedh Ghat.



Dashaswamedh Ghat दशाश्वमेध घाट



Tripura Bhairavi Ghat & Ram Bhavan

Sindhia Ghat is one of the spacious ghats in the heart of the city approachable through narrow lanes.

“RAMBHAVAN” on Tripura Bhairavi Ghat is the centre for South Indian pilgrims. People of Tamilnadu and Karnataka states come in large numbers and have a free stay for three days. They get Purohits and guides of their own languages.

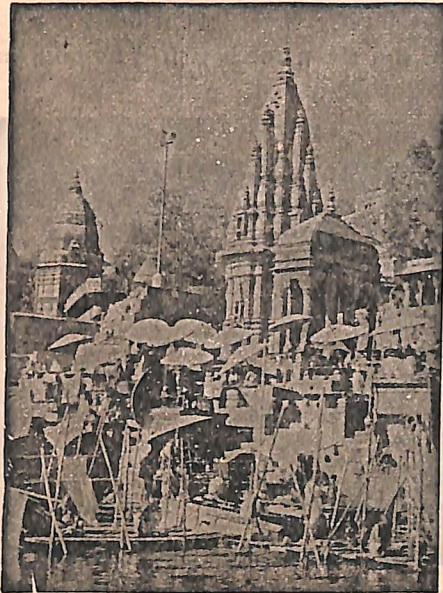
BURNING GHAT on Manikarnika, the point of cremation, is most sacred for the entire Hindu world. It is here Lord Shiva promised Vishnu to remain present to liberate the souls



Manikarnika Ghat मणिकर्णिका घाट—श्रेणीबद्ध

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from the cycle of reincarnation. Thousands of old people live in Banaras to be cremated here, dead bodies are brought from remote corners of the country.

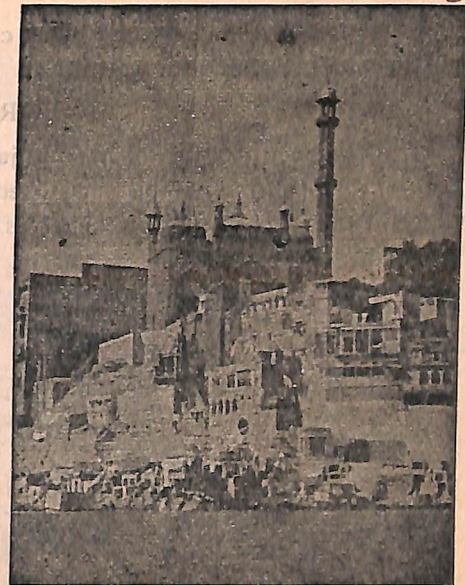


Manikarnika Ghat

← मणिकर्णिका घाट

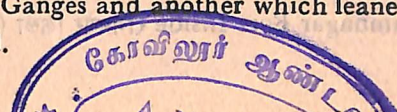
Pancha Ganga Ghat

पंचगंगा घाट→



PANCHA GANGA GHAT

The two minarets of Alamgiri Mosque on Panchaganga ghat are no more. They worked as the land-mark of the city but one fell into the Ganges and another which leaned towards the city was removed.



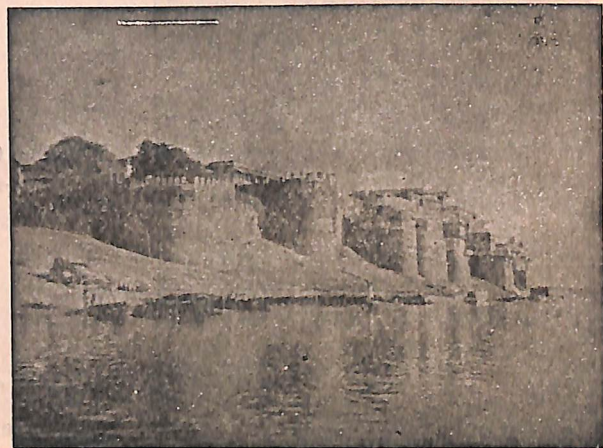
It is said Panchaganga has a confluence of five streams. Throughout the month of Kartika this ghat becomes crowded for bathing.

FORT OF MAHARAJA BANARAS

The beautiful fort of Maharaja Banaras is visible on the southern corner of the other bank of Ganges. The shrine of the sage Vedavyas adjoining the fort on the river side is visited by pilgrims, Maharaj's position as Kashi Naresh is exalted in the Hindu world.

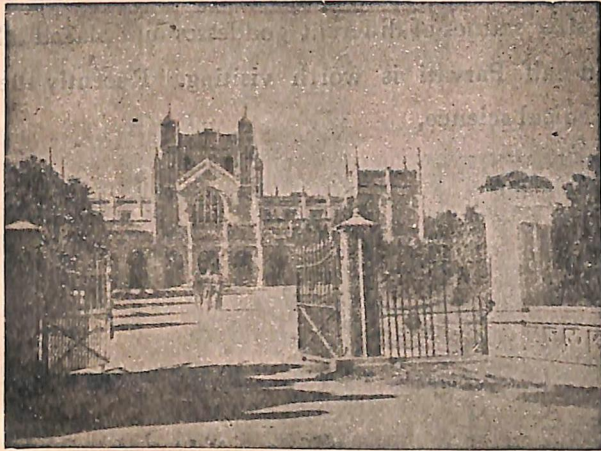


Ramnagar Fort Inside रामनगर किला (भीतरी)

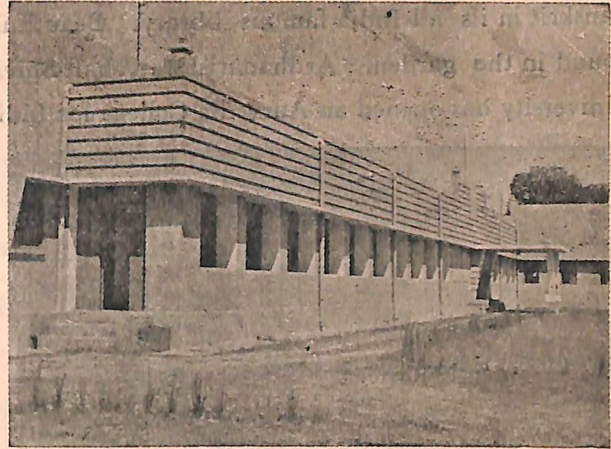


Fort on Ganges किला बाहर गंगा जी

SANSKRIT UNIVERSITY



Sanskrit University संस्कृत युनिवर्सिटी



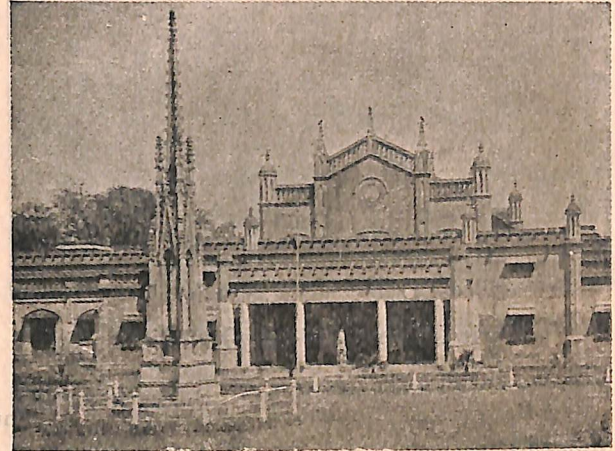
Tibbetan Guest House in Sanskrit University

Banaras is the seat of Sanskrit, the ancient classical language of India. The present Sanskrit University formerly named Queen's College was constructed by British Government. During the Chief ministership of Dr. Sampurnanand this institution developed to its full stature as Sanskrit University;

with International houses. This university preserves a good museum, manuscripts and old books of Sanskrit in its all-India famous library. Beautiful life-size statues of different goddesses are placed all round in the garden. Ardhanarishwar, half Shiva and half Parvati is worth visiting. Recently the University has opened an Aurvedic College for Indian medical science.



Ardha Narishwar Image in Sanskrit University
अर्ध नारीश्वर (संस्कृत विश्वविद्यालय)



A view of Sanskrit University संस्कृत
विश्वविद्यालय का एक दृश्य



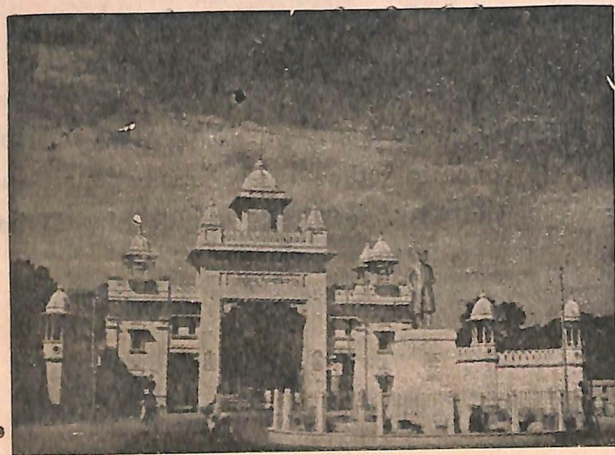
महामना मालवीय जी

संस्थापक : काशी हिन्दू विश्वविद्यालय वाराणसी

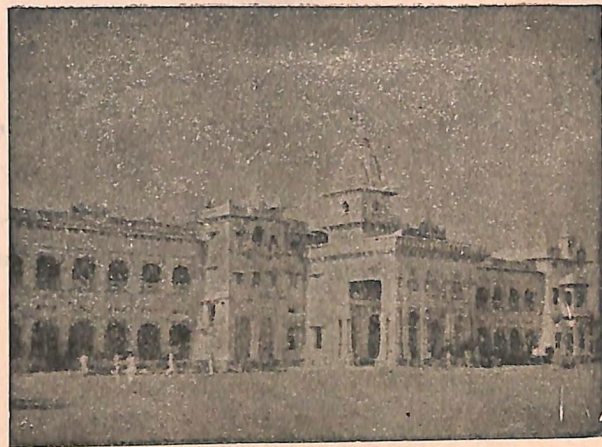
BANARAS HINDU UNIVERSITY

At the southern end of the city on 1340 acres of land donated by Maharaja Banaras, the biggest educational and residential University of India is flourishing, founded by Mahamana Madan Mohan Malviya in 1916.

There stands a life size statue of the founder before entering the gate of the University. The object of this nondenominational University is to create a synthesis of eastern and western learning. All the salmon colour buildings maintain its oriental character. Colleges of medicine, liberal Arts, Sanskrit, Science and Technologies, Agriculture, Music and Fine Arts, as well as the spacious Engineering College, present a grand view.



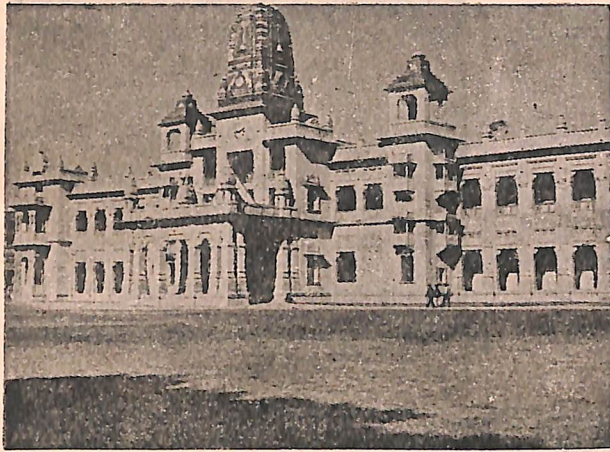
B. H. U. Gate प्रवेश द्वार (का० हि० वि०)



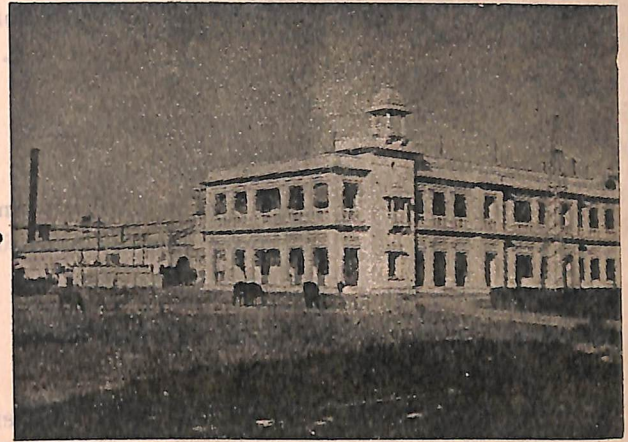
Arts College B. H. U. आर्ट्स कालेज

Sanskrit College of Banaras Hindu University is constructed in beautiful temple architecture with a huge hall inside for occasional gathering of the intellectuals. It has learned professors of all India fame.

Engineering College is a foremost institution inviting students of the country. It has its own power plant to supply electricity to the University.



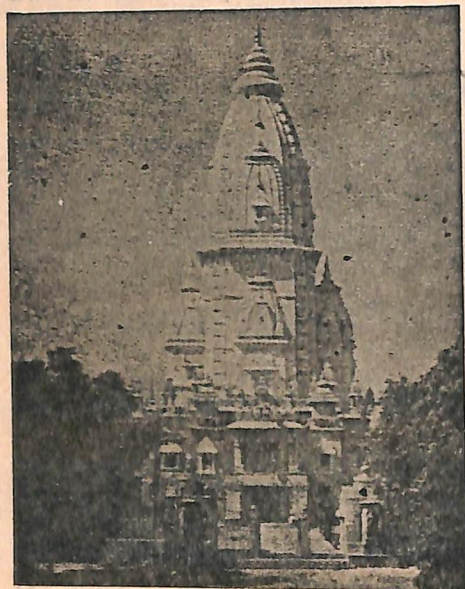
Sanskrit College B. H. U. संस्कृत कालेज (का० हि० वि०)



Engineering College B. H. U. इंजीनियरिंग कालेज

UNIVERSITY TEMPLE

The lofty temple situated in the middle of the university in a nice natural environment is dedicated to Shiva with other statues of Laxminarayan, Durga, Parvati and Ganesh.



Vishwanath Temple
← (B. H. U.)

Vishwanath Temple
Inside →



It is interesting to read the selected quotations from Indian shastras all over the walls.

Being a residential university it has excellent management of hostels to accomodate many thousand students

of its institution. The endless line of palatial designed hostels gives it the appearance of another city in Varanasi.

The big library of the University near the temple is donated by Maharaja Gaikwar of Baroda. Apart from the row of colleges, the University has a long row of magnificent hostels. The Art Gallery (Kala Bhawan) has a huge and rare collection of Ancient Indian paintings. University has a well



Ruiya Hostel रुइया छात्रावास

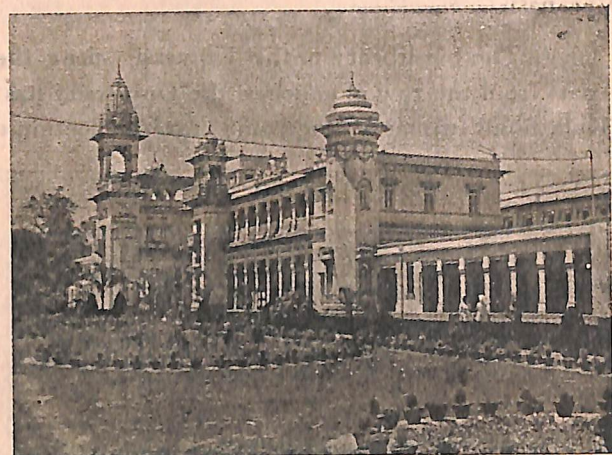


Birla Hostel बिरला छात्रावास

equipped hospital with able doctors for free treatment and practical studies.



Library B. H. U. गायकवाड पुस्तकालय

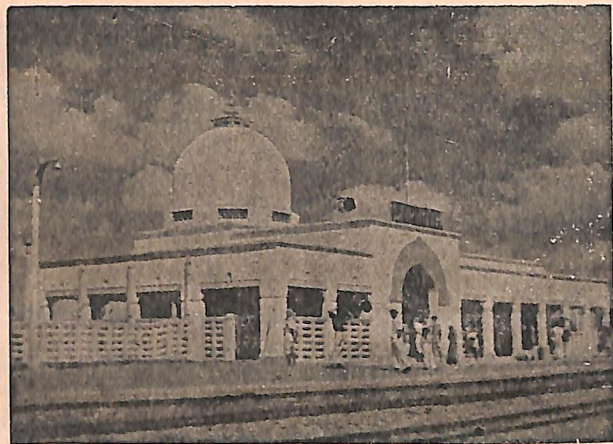


Sir Sundar Lal Hospital सर सुन्दर लाल चिकित्सालय

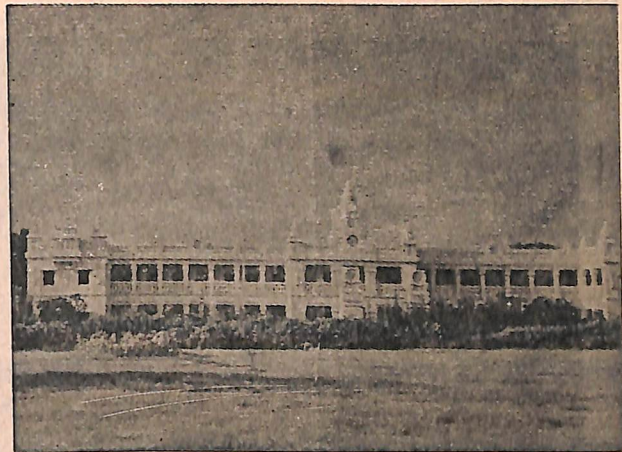
SARNATH

About six miles North from the border of Banaras, Sarnath, the mother place of Buddhism, has been brought into light by a big archaeological excavation. One can go to Sarnath by rikshaw,

cars or by train. At a walking distance from Sarnath, a beautiful railway station exists, designed on the old Buddhist monumental pattern. Birla Dharmshala is the best place to stay in just in front of Mulgandh Kutivihar.



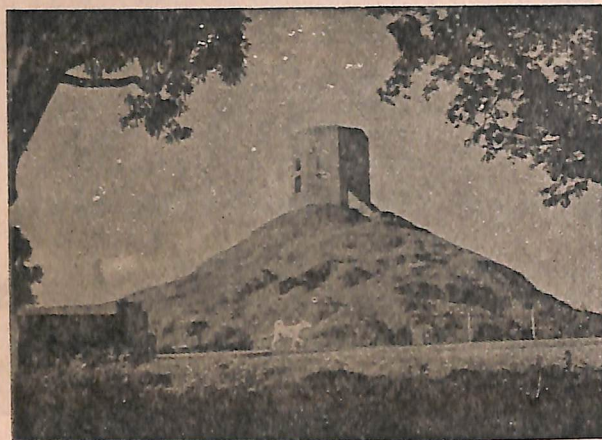
Railway Station Sarnath स्टेशन (सारनाथ)



Birla Dharmshala Sarnath बिड़ला धर्मशाला सारनाथ

CHAUKHANDI STUPA

About 500⁺ yards before reaching the site by road, a huge mound visible with an octagonal tower is Chaukhandi Stupa constructed in 5 A D. on the point where Buddha met his first five disciples. The octagonal top is a superstructure constructed by Akbar in memory of his father who stayed one night on it. The hole between the railings like a well is an archaeological search.

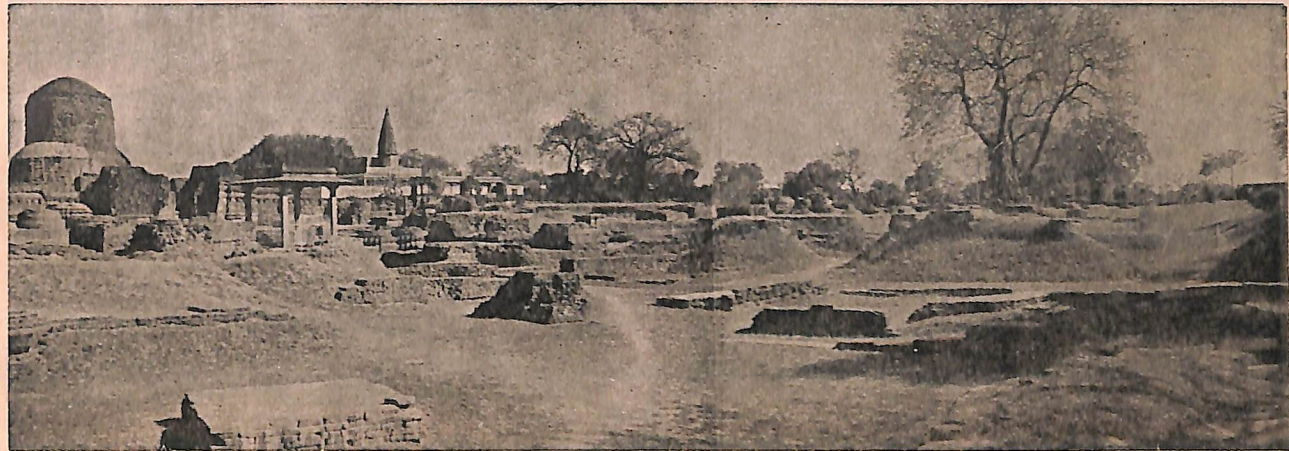


Chaukhandi Stupa Sarnath चौखण्डी स्तूप सारनाथ



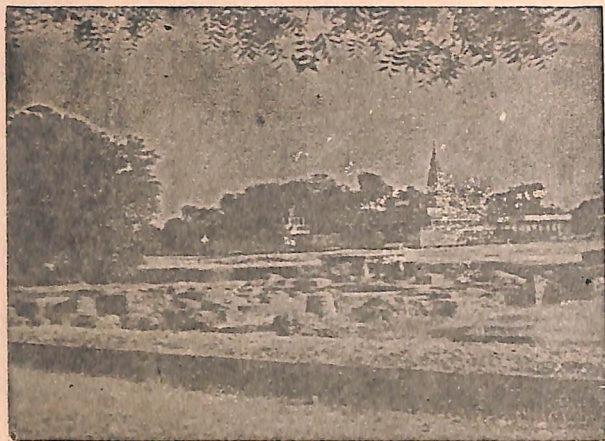
Inside chaukhandi Stupa चौखण्डी स्तूप अन्दर का एक दृश्य

The city of Sarnath developed very much during the periods of Ashoka, Kaniska and Gupta kings. Fahien and Hieunsang, the two Chinese pilgrims have seen and described the glory of the city in 5th & 7th century A. D., but this magnificent holy city of India was levelled to the ground by the cruel Muslim invader, Kutubuddin Aibak.



Ruins of Sarnath, a Panoramic View सारनाथ के श्रेणिबद्ध खंडहर

The well baked bricks with beautiful designs amaze a visitor that in her long past India had mastery over brick-making. The recovery of Buddha's relics from hemispherical Dharmrajika Stupa of Ashoka attracted the British Archaeologists in 19th century to excavate this city.



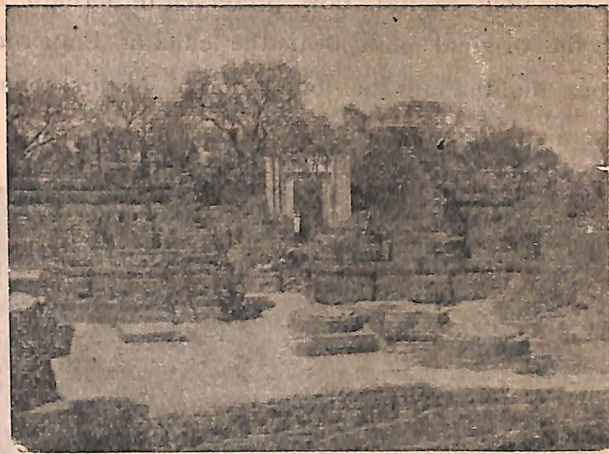
Relics of Sarnath (Second View)



Relics of Sarnath (Third View)



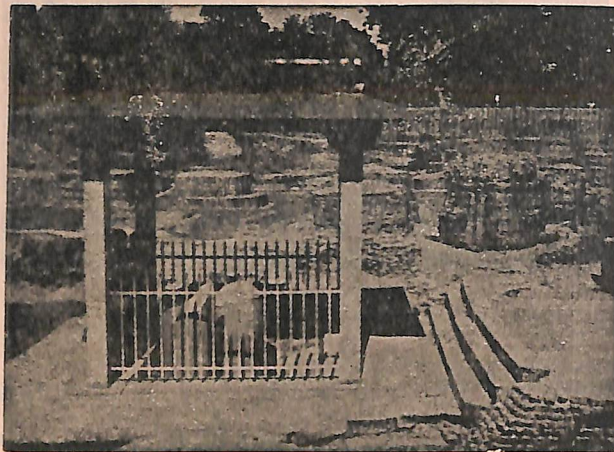
Dharma Rajika Stupa, Sarnath



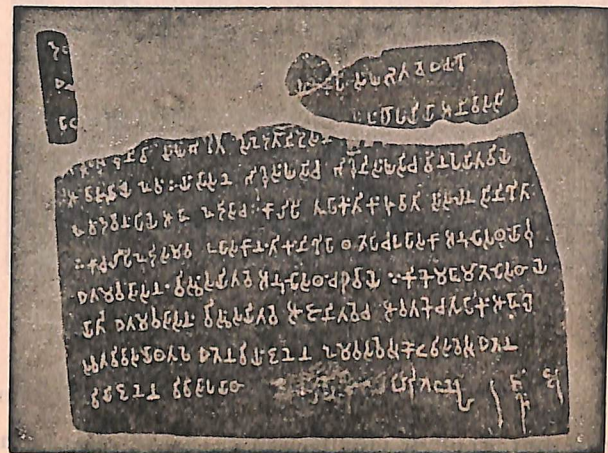
Main Shrine, Sarnath

Buddhist Pilgrims worship every brick and stone of the ruins of Sarnath. Buddha lived here in a hut for four months where a 200 feet high temple was constructed in 5th century A. D., now traced out in ruins, marked as Main Shrine. Ruins of monasteries stupas and temples were discovered. Ashoka column with unique Mauryan polish was recovered in fragments. Once it was bearing

a four-lions capital, now preserved in Sarnath Archeological Museum. The column piece embedded at the original point bears the edict of Emperor Ashoka inscribed in Brahmi script. It is believed that Buddha laid the foundation of his first 'Sangh', the organisation with sixty people, where Ashoka fixed a Column.



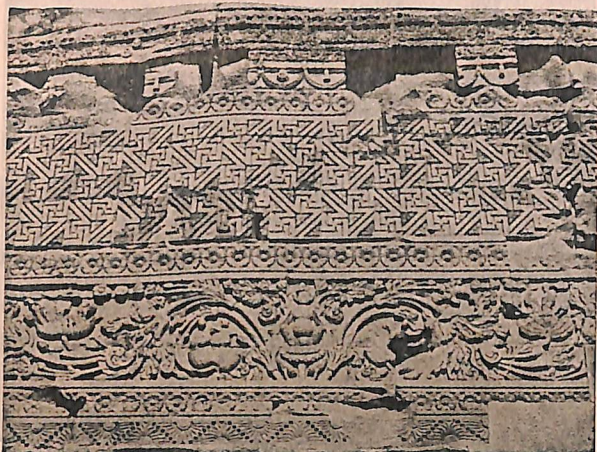
Remains of Ashoka's Pillar, Sarnath



Ashoka's Pillar-Edict of Sarnath

DHAMEKH STUPA

The stupendous solid stupa is the only building that has escaped the demolitions. It stands on the point where Buddha delivered his first sermon. The Dharma Chakra Pravartan. The stupa was constructed by Ashoka in 3rd



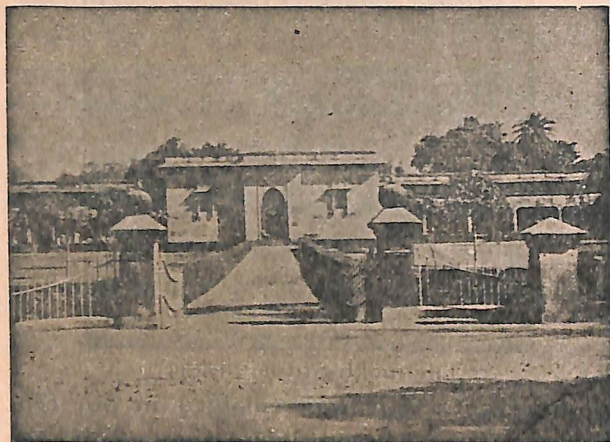
Details of Carving on Dhamekh Stupa



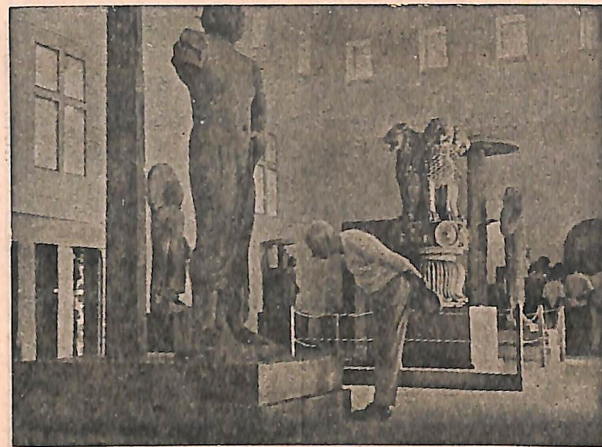
Dhamekh Stupa धमंकेस्तूप
century B. C. and was enlarged in 5th century A. D. with marvellous Gupta carvings on it.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

The museum constructed by the Archaeological Department of Govt. of India contains masterpiece sculptures from 3rd century B. C. to 1200 A. D. It treasures all the valuable findings from Sarnath excavations. It gives a nice study of different schools of Buddhism. Lion Capital of Ashoka Column is a wonder to the modern artists, how vigorous and true to nature the lions are made with minutest



Museum, Sarnath पुरातत्व संग्रहालय, सारनाथ

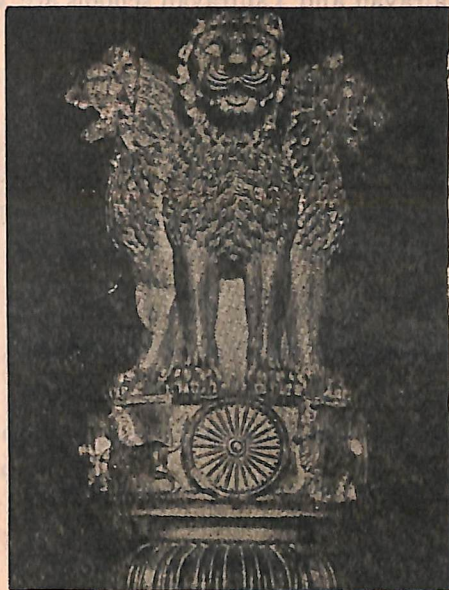


Inside the Museum संग्रहालय के अन्दर का एक दृश्य

perfection—a mirror-like lustre on sand stone. India is proud over this piece and has chosen it as a graceful mighty symbol of the nation. The red-stone statue of Buddha is one of the first rare statues of Buddha in the world constructed in 1 A. D.



Red Stone Bodhisattva



Lion Capital, Sarnath सिंह शीर्ष

This museum has quite a few exquisite statues of Gupta period (5 A. D.) with the unique world famous preaching Buddha. Pannels showing events of Buddha's life and different Bodhisattvas of Mahayan, Vajrayan and Tantrayan schools are worth visiting.



←Head of Buddha
बुद्ध का सिर

Buddha Image in →
Museum (Sarnath)

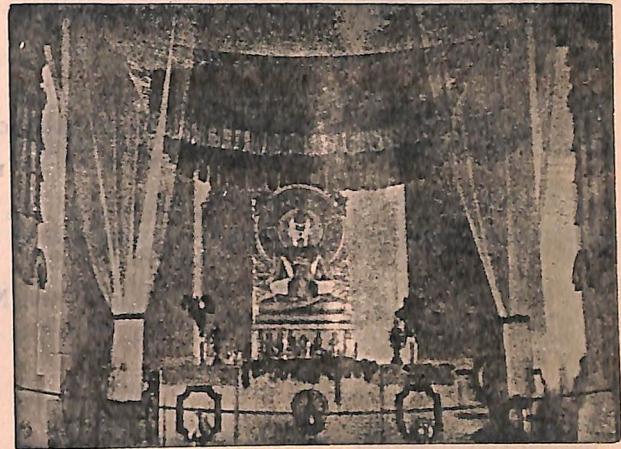


MULGANDH-KUTI VIHAR

This temple was constructed by Anagarika Dharmapal of Ceylon and it enshrines relics of Buddha's body under a life-size golden statue of Buddha in preaching posture. The frescoes done all over inside is an attempt done by a Japanese artist to reproduce Ajanta painting.



Buddha Temple, Saranath बुद्धमन्दिर सारनाथ



Buddha Image, Sarnath बुद्धमूर्ति



MAHABODHI SOCIETY

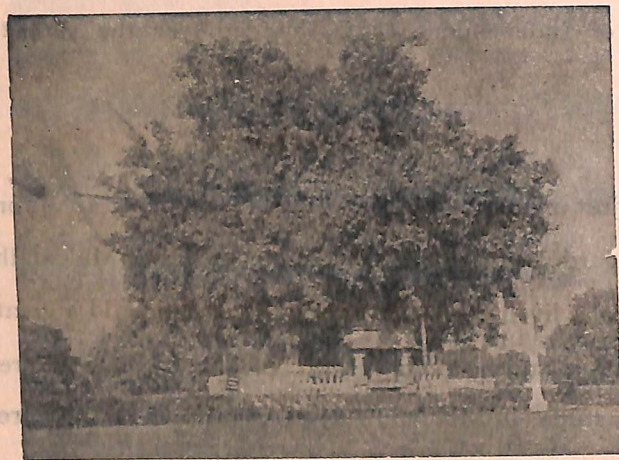
Mahabodhi Society was founded by Anagarika Dharmapala of Ceylon. He revived Buddhism in India and travelled round the world for it. He spent the major part of his life in restoration of Sarnath and Bodhgaya. Dharmapala went back to Ceylon on 31st May 1891 and established Mahabodhi Society for the restoration of Bodhgaya.

After many troubles and litigations with Brahmin owners Dharmapal wrote to Mahatma Gandhi that Bodhgaya belongs to Buddhists. Mahatmajee replied, "Only independence of India can help you" and in 1953 Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the first President of Independent India, handed over the right to Mahabodhi Society.

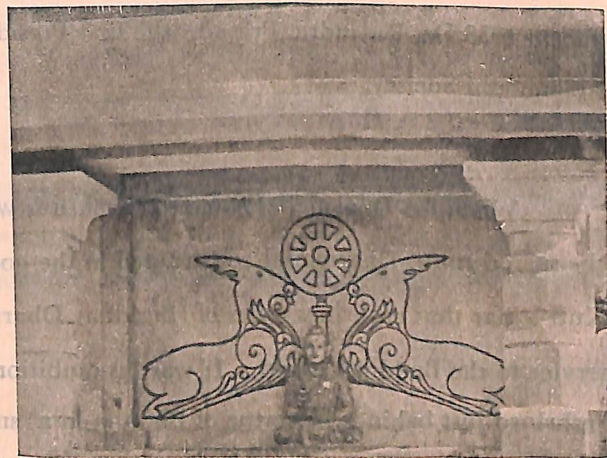
When Sri Dharmapal came to Sarnath it was just a horrible place, pigs were moving about on the sacred ruins. Dharmapal constructed in the goods garden of Sarnath the temple known as Mulgandh Kuti Vihar that enshrines relics of Buddha. Dharmapala lived in Sarnath from where he did a great service to the Buddhist world. It was his ambition to die and be cremated in Sarnath. His ashes are enshrined just behind the statue of Buddha in a small stupa in Mulgandh Kuti Vihar. He is no more but active Mahabodhi Society is a living memorial of him.

BODHI TREE

The tree where every body bows his head is the branch of the same original Bodhi Tree which was sent to Ceylon by Ashoka from Bodhgaya. It exists right to Mulgandh Kuti Vihar, encircled by a fencing having lamp receptacles.



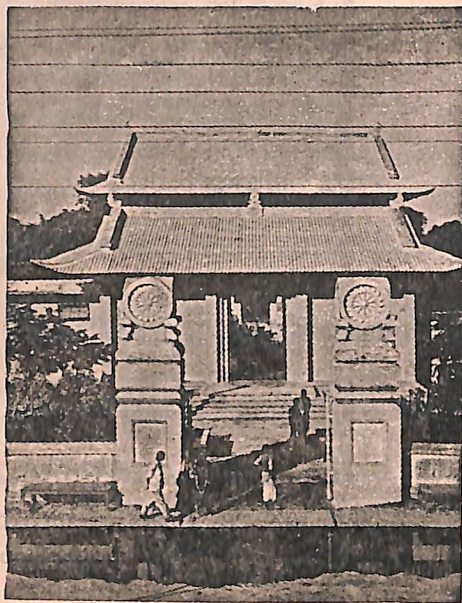
Bodhi Tree Sarnath बोधि वृक्ष सारनाथ



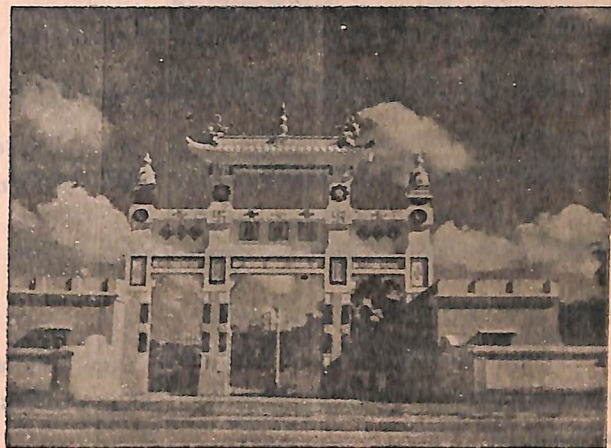
Buddha Image under the Bodhi Tree वृक्ष के नीचे की प्रतिमा

CHINESE TEMPLE

Sarnath has quite a few temples constructed by different Buddhist countries. Chinese temple is quite in its pattern having peculiar gate. Inside the hall a huge white marble Buddha's statue is placed on a platform in gyanmudra, the wisdom posture.



China Temple New Gate चाइना मन्दिर प्रवेश द्वार



China Temple चाइना मन्दिर



← Buddha Image
China Temple

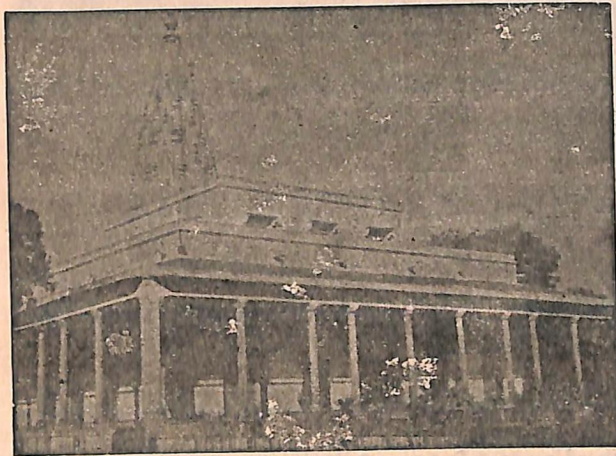
Buddha Image →
Burmese Temple



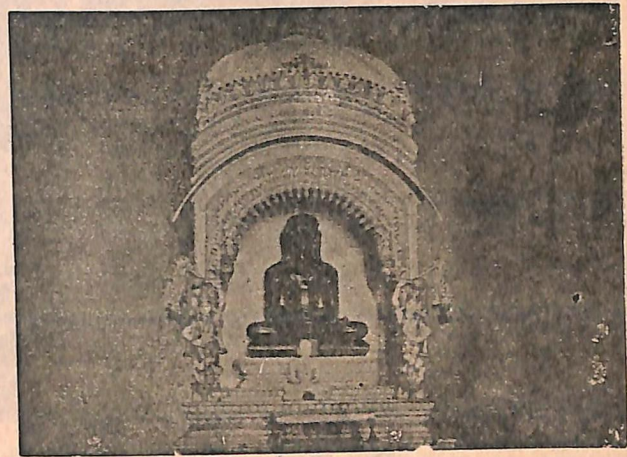
The Burmese are Buddhist, so they have also constructed a temple in peaceful environment west to the ruins. Temple constructions are the expressions of gratitude by different Buddhist countries to Sarnath.

JAIN TEMPLE

Sarnath is also a sacred place for Jains. Their 24th Tirthankar Shrensh Nath was born and died here. A Jain temple exists in the old city of Sarnath with a statue of the Tirthankar and fresco describing Jain mythologies all round.

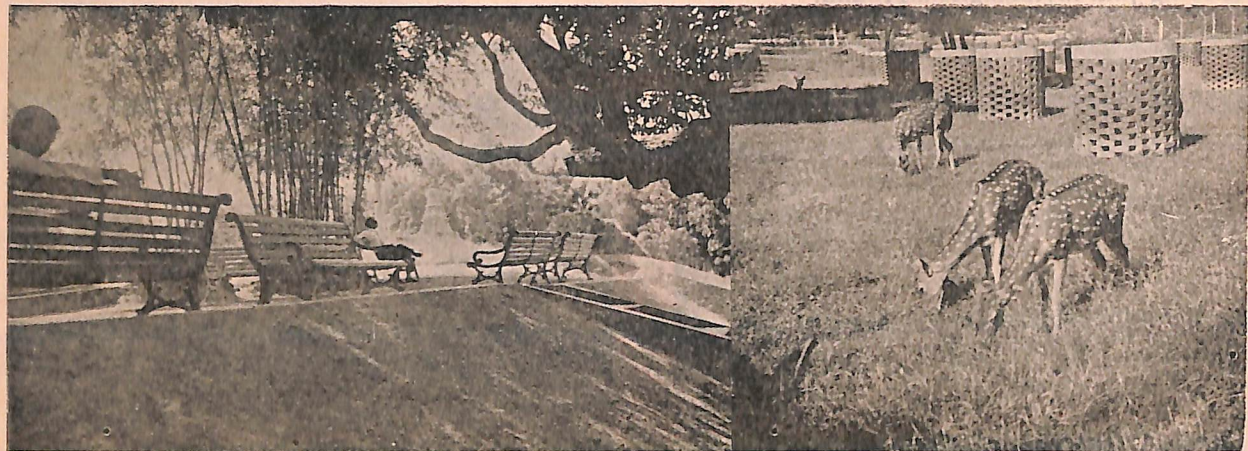


Jain Temple, Sarnath जैन मन्दिर



Jain Temple Image inside प्रतिमा जैन मन्दिर

Sarnath is famous in History as the Deer Park where Buddha took his previous birth as a deer. Govt. has preserved some deer in a big netted area where they can move freely in a forestlike environment by the side of a lake. The Lotus Lake is very peaceful, the visitors can rest a while under the shade of trees on the benches lying here and there for them.



Deer Park and its Peaceful Site मृगदाव एवं उसका शान्तिदायक विश्राम स्थल

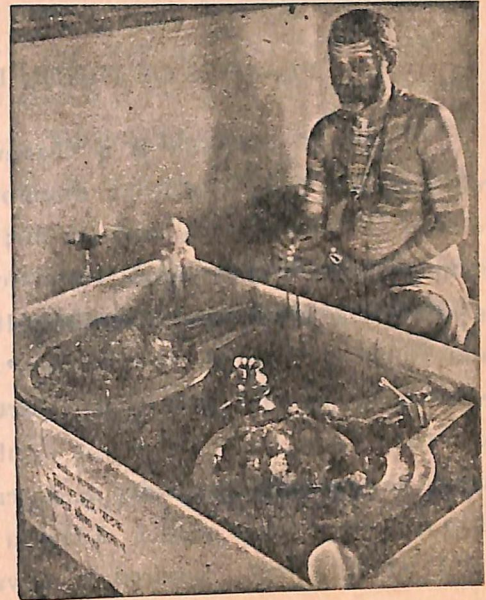


Sarangnath Temple

←—Sarnath

Image Sarangnath

Inside —→



SARANGNATH-MAHADEO-TEMPLE

It is ancient shrine of Shiva called Sarangnath. In the months of July and August a big fair and festival takes place when the people of the city come to have a view of Shiva and perform a religious picnic here.

FLASHES OF HINDU RITUALS

Life of a Hindu is a Ceremony. He believes in reincarnation from which he attempts life long to have a release. Hinduism is a way of life; still there are some common rituals that bind them together. A “Marjan” is sprinkling holy water over oneself which is purificatory and equal to bathing. “Aachaman” is sipping the sacred water in acceptance that ‘I am a part of you’. “Darshan” is to have the sacred view of the symbol of God with folded hands in complete surrender and realisation. Statue worship is a prominent aspect of Hindu faith. It is a starting point which is not required in advanced stage. “Daan”





is charity to the needy. A holyman depends on “Daan”, the charity. He differs from a priest. A priest is a family man. He marries and gets children. He is a Brahmin, the first caste; but a holyman is a lonely wanderer, he has reached such a stage of life where he has no personal desire and material attachment. He is dedicated to God. One method of realisation is Yoga which is an adamant practical exercise for selfrevelation.

CASTE SYSTEM

There are four castes that compose Hindu Society. 1. Brahmin, 2. Kshatriya, 3. Vaishya, 4. Sudra. Caste was as an organisation needed in ancient India to harmonise different races coming up from time to time; now it is slowly losing importance in Gandhian era.

CREMATION—Burning the dead is the concluding sacrament of a Hindu life it must be done. Body is composed of five elements; 1. Earth, 2. Fire, 3. Water, 4. Sky, 5. Air. After death the body is immediately burnt to liberate these five elements from the prison of body and the soul becomes free for incarnations and salvation.



FESTIVALS

MAHA SHIVARATRI—is the biggest festival of Shiva in his city Kashi—Every devotee after

bathing in Ganges brings Ganges water to the temple of Vishwanath and pours it on Lingam with the prayer, "Har Har Mahadeva", the fast is observed and people keep awake whole night, with the merit of which one is released from the cycle of reincarnation. It falls in February or March.

HOLI—follows Shivaratri. It is a festival of colour and joy. It was first started by Lord Krishna in Brindavan near Mathura. Holi is the end of Hindu calendar year and a good bye to winter to welcome summer. At night people worship bonfire and next forenoon is a colour throwing day with colours sprayed with syringes. The afternoon turns into exchanges of dry red colour. There is no man on the street who is not coloured on this day.

DEEPAWALI—comes in October or November. It is a festival of illumination. When Lord Ram returned after killing the demon Ravana of Ceylon to his capital Ayodhya, the people illuminated the whole city in joy. Businessmen close their old accounts and open new ones on Deepawali. Goddess Laxmi is worshipped this night for prosperity.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Air connections—Indian Airlines connects Varanasi with Delhi, Agra, Lucknow, Allahabad, Patna, Calcutta, Kanpur and Kathmandu (Nepal).

Babatpur Airport : 14 miles from the city.

Railway stations : Varanasi Cantt. Moghal Sarai.

The Upper India Express connects Varanasi with Delhi and Calcutta. Distance from Varanasi to a few tourist centres are as follows : Moghul Sarai (17 Kms.); Sarnath (8Kms); Satana for Khajuraho (319 Kms); Patna (229 Kms); Gaya (221 Kms); Gorakhpur (223 Kms); Nowharh for Lumbini (206 Kms); Calcutta (679 Kms); Bombay (1496 Kms); Madras (2142 Kms); Raxaul for Kathmandu (449 Kms.).

Note—The factual information in this insert is liable to change from time to time. Tourists are advised to consult the nearest Government of India Tourist Office for up-to-date information.

Buses : Buses run by Uttar Pradesh Government Roadways and private bus operators connect Varanasi with all the places of tourist interest and around Varanasi.

Taxis 4 seater—Rs. 1/-per mile. Rs. 4/- per hour detention.

List of car operators :

Banaras Transport Co., Telephone No. 64138, Varanasi Taxi Kendra (Tel. No. 63773)

Deluxe Buses and special luxury cars may be hired through the Assistant General Manager, Uttar Pradesh Government Roadways, Varanasi Cantt. Tele. 64112.

Other Conveyances : Station wagons, auto-rikshas, cycle rickshaws, tongas and country boats for river trips are available.

CONDUCTED TOURS : U. P. Govt. Roadways conduct De-luxe Coach sightseeing tours. There are two tours per day, the charges being Rs. 8.60 + 9.10 for half and full day sightseeing respectively. For advance bookings contact U. P. Govt. Tourist Bureau, Tourist Bungalow, Parade Kothi, Varanasi, Tele. No. 63186.

Accommodation Hotels :

Western Style—(1) Clarks Hotel, Tele. No. 62021, Gram : CLARKHOTEL, (2) Hotel de Paris, Tele. No. 62418, Gram : HOTELPARIS, (3) Varanasi Hotel, Tele. No. 52041.

Indian Style—Banaras Lodge, Dashaswamedh Road (Tele. No. 62658), Central Hotel, Dashaswamedh (Tele. No. 62776); Grand Hotel, Bulanala (Tele. No. 63761), K. V. M. Hotel, Godaulia (Tele. No. 63749), Modern Lodge, Lahurabir (Tele. No. 63212), Palace Hotel, Godaulia (Tele.

62848) Ajai Hotel, Lahurabir (Tele. No. 67125) Nar-Indra Hotel, Station Road (Tele. No. 62686).

Note—Indian style hotels also provide accomodation on rental basis only. The charges are Rs. 4.50 to for single and Rs. 7.50 to Rs. 15/- for double rooms.

GOVERNMENT TOURIST BUNGALOW—Parade Kothi : (Reservation authority, Regional Tourist Office, U. P. Govt. Tourist Office (Tele. No. 63186).

DHARMASHALAS : Dayabhi Dhanibhi Dharmashala, Harasundari Dharmashala, Lucknow Dharmashala, Pandey Dharmashala, Rewa Bai Dharmashala, Sri Krishna Dharmashala, Jain Dharmashala, Jaipuria Rest House, Agarwal Dharmashala, Mysore Chatteram.

PLACES OF INTEREST :

River front (4.8 Kms.); Vishwanath Golden Temple (4.8 Kms.); Aurangzeb's Mosque (4.8 Kms.) Banaras Hindu University (11.2 Kms.); Vijayanagaram Palace (6.4 Kms.); Durga Temple (8 Kms.); Bharat Mata Temple (3.2 Kms.); Tulsi Manas Mandir (8 Kms.).

Sarnath—(10.4 Kms.), Dhamekh Stupa, Museum, Mulgandha Kuti Vihar, ruins of monasteries, etc.

The boat-ride on the river Ganges may preferably be undertaken in the morning. Alamgir mosque, Jai Singh's Observatory and Nepali Temple can be approached from the river bank.

Airlines Office—City Office, Nadesar (Tele. No. 64146), Babatpur Airport (Tele. No. 62411)

Banks : State Bank of India (Tele. No. 64170), Punjab National Bank (Tele. No. 63587), United Commercial Bank (Tele. No. 42605), United Bank of India (Tele. No. 63449), Central Bank of India (Tele. No. 63561), Bank of India (Tele. No. 63707) and Union Bank of India.

Chemists : Annapurna Pharmacy, Star Pharmacy, Kaladhar Prasad and Sons, C. N. Dey, Medical Store and Drug House, Janta Drug Store.

Cinemas : Kanhaiya Chitra Mandir, Prakash Talkies, Deepak Talkies, Anand Mandir, Jamuna Picture Palace, Prachi Cinema, Lalita Cinema, Sajan, Gunjan and Saraswati.

Guide Services : Educated Govt. trained and approved guide's services can easily be obtained from Govt. of India Tourist Office 15 B, the Mall (Tele. No. 64189).

Information Centres : Government of India Tourist Office 15 B, The Mall, Varanasi Cantt.

(Tele. No 64189); Govt. of India Tourist Information Counter, Babatpur Airport; Uttar Pradesh Regional Tourist Office, Parade Kothi (Tele. No. 63186).

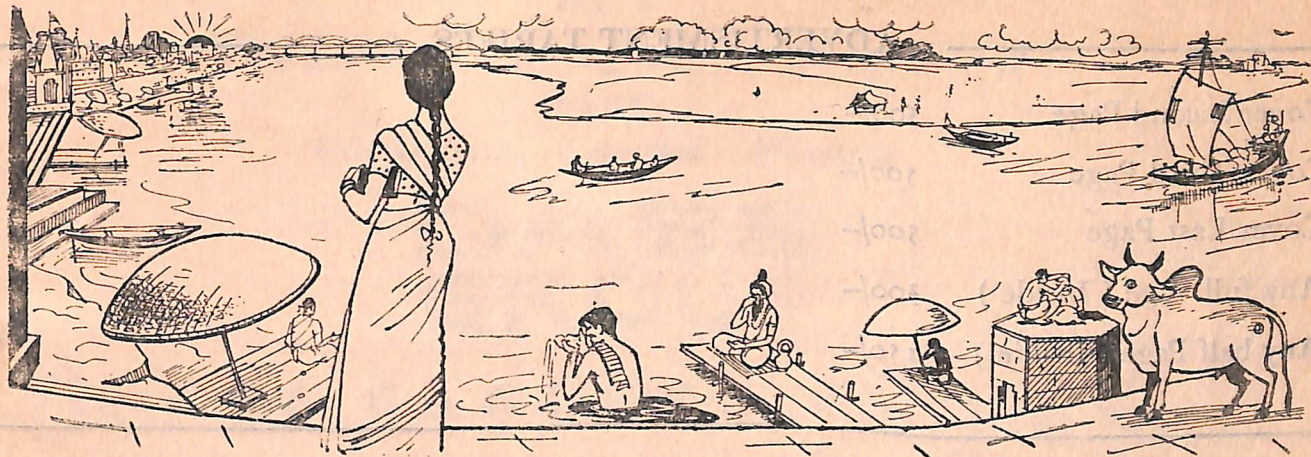
Post Office : General Post Office, Bisheswarganj and Post and Telegraph Office, Varanasi Cantt.

There is NO PROHIBITION in Varanasi. Tuesday is dry day.

Restaurants : Kwality Restaurant Lahurabir. The Restaurant, Godouliya.

Shopping : Varanasi is famous for its brocades and silks, copper and brassware and lacquered toys, available at Chowk, Vishwanath Gali, Gyanvapi and Thatheri Bazar.

Travel Agencies ; T. C. I., Clark's Hotel, Varanasi Cantt, SITA Varanasi Hotel., Varanasi Cant.

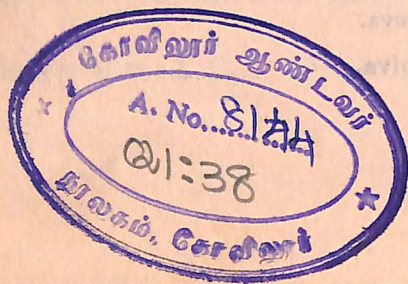


Bound in ties a man is Jeeva.

Free from ties a man is Shiva.

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